

*the* **ONYX**  
*informer*

March  
2002

10:00-11:00 AM  
11:00-12:00 PM

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Black Culture**

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**The Plague of the  
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**Love & Hate**

**Black Actors Off  
to a Strong  
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*Serving the people of  
the African Diaspora...*

*since 1972*

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Anytime you see someone more  
successful than you are, they are  
doing something you aren't...  
~Malcolm X

Volume 30, Issue 2

### ONYX INFORMER

430 Curry Student Center  
360 Huntington Avenue

Boston, MA 02115

617.373.2250

OnyxInformer@yahoo.com

### Executive & Editorial Board

Alithea Casimir

Princess Cooper-Brown

Daitwan David

Andre Jean-Francois

Jose Masso

### Onyx Staff

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Mohammed Bitahi

Tyeese Gaines

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## The 19th Annual Dean Ronald E. Latham Oratory Competition

by André Jean-Francois

The Nineteenth Annual Dean Roland E. Latham Oratory Competition took place on February 12<sup>th</sup>, at the Curry Student Center Ballroom. Following in tradition, all of the participants competed many hot topics that face not only African-Americans but also people of all origins.

In this year's Competition, there were five freshmen and seven upperclass student participants. According to the rules, freshmen compete against freshmen and upperclass students compete among each other. Some of issues that these students battled were as followed:

1. What are the responsibilities of Black faculty and staff on predominately White college campuses as it relates to students of African origin and the Black community?
2. Can a case be made for reparations for people of African origin
3. What recent trends suggest that many Americans are now prepared to sacrifice their civil liberties in exchange for a sense of physical safety and security?
4. What are the implications for the Black community of the ethnic profiling of Arab-Americans, post-September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001?

The Oratory competition is dedicated to Dean Roland Earle Latham, Northeastern's first Dean/Director of the Office of Minority Student Affairs (1967 to 1983). During Dean Latham's twenty years of service, he played a key role in increasing Northeastern's Black student enrollment from 25 to 1200 and strengthening its efforts in multicultural affairs.

He was a man committed to instilling the quest for academic excellence in the students he served. Dean Latham had a unique ability to motivate the most reluctant students to achieve; this event represents one of his most outstanding legacies. The Latham Oratory Competition encourages intellectual inquiry, critical thinking, oral presentation, research and scholarship. The competition is a fitting honor and tribute to a pioneer dedicated to providing service to students of African origin at Northeastern University.

### ***Congratulations to the Winners of the Oratory Competition***

#### **Upperclass Participants**

Janelle Wood

Ellis Reid

Hayden Frederick-Clarke

#### **Freshmen Participants**

Judesther Marc

Tahirah Sylvester-Daniel

Rodley Cinke Doriscat

## Is there an Educational Divide?

by Jeremiah Shepherd

Carla DaVeiga is a 17-year-old junior at the Jeremiah E. Burke high school in Dorchester. Currently she is a National Honor Society scholar, scored in the top percentile of last fall's MCAS, and is expected to perform well in her upcoming SAT's. Carla is the type of student that most colleges fight over (reminiscent of those playground wars where kids argue over first pick in the kickball game). Nevertheless, the only schools that she ever hears of are expensive out of state colleges and community/state schools. Ask the average high school student from Dorchester, South Boston or Roxbury about higher education. And, one would find them to have limited or no information that is needed when developing perceptions of higher education in schools such as Northeastern University, which sits right in their backyards. What we have is the creation of an **Educational Divide** that separates students like Carla from an education that shouldn't have to come nearly so hard.

*"To me, Northeastern is just a stop on the green line,"* says 17-year-old Justin Ortega, a senior at a local area high school. *"I think about college. But it's like when I ask my counselor; he only tells [me about] Bunker Hill Community College or me about RCC (Roxbury Community College). The only kids that are told of the 'better' schools are the athletes..."* Justin is not the only student that feels this way. His friends all nodded in agreement while we spoke, waiting for transportation at Ruggles Station. The problem is that too many high school students lack the necessary information they need to apply to Northeastern. Most

**Divide, see page 4**



## Foundations of Black Culture: What Does That Entail?

by Jovia L. Léveillé

Hip Hop culture is not all that most of us perceive it to be. There is an educational and intellectual side that many of us overlook. Foundations of Black Culture: Hip Hop is a course offered at Northeastern University that is geared to "breaking it down" for us. Just in case you have not noticed, there have been flyers posted around campus, sending an invitation for students to enroll in the class.

Foundations of Black Culture: Hip Hop (or "The Hip Hop Class," as many refer to it) is a class that encourages individuals to break through the stereotypes and the "social facts" of Black culture. (Social facts, as I learned while sitting in on one of the class sessions, are the ideas and generalizations believed to be true about a certain culture, race, or group of people.) Instructor, Núrí Chandler-Smith

does just this, as she brings to knowledge the often ignored and covered up intellectual background of Hip Hop.

Danny Jerez, a sophomore and member of the class said, he "never took time to learn about the history [of Hip Hop]. At first, I thought it was going to be a pushover class, but it's really fun and challenging." As Jerez's fieldwork, which is a requirement of the course, he DJs Hip Hop music show on Monday nights from 8 to 10 o'clock on NU's WRBB 104.9.

Sophomore and English major, Chimere McBrayer said: "the class makes you learn things you never would know [about Hip Hop]." Such things include Hip Hop's involvement in science fiction, the apocalypse, and other worldly matters. She excitedly stated: "[there is] so much information, I can't even remember."

Another student, Josh Parker

(freshman and political science major), is fascinated by the evolution of disco beats as a sort of spin off from Hip Hop. He also stated that the class is very informative in explaining "how and why things are the way they are," such as the call and response in Hip Hop today, deriving from the slavery of Africans in America.

The class, originated in 1998, and was taught by, Professor Robin M. Chandler. The current instructor, Professor Núrí Chandler-Smith, nevertheless continues to enhance the tremendous precedent set by her mother Professor Chandler.

As I sat in the classroom, I could not help but take notes for my own personal knowledge and benefit. It covers a lot of intriguing and enlightening material.

For further information, contact the African-American Studies department in Nightingale Hall [617-373-3148].

### Divide, from page 3

of the young people I spoke with felt they needed the following criteria to enter Northeastern: a GPA of 3.5 or greater, SAT scores of 1300 or better, and that they couldn't possibly get in if they had trouble with the law in any way! When I asked if any Northeastern representatives had visited their schools... *"There was that one time, but it seemed like old girl wanted to get out of the place as quick as possible,"* commented one individual.

Northeastern has initiated an urban mission for outreach to Boston Public Schools. After visiting with a representative in the Admission Office, I was told of existing initiatives in place such as financial aid

workshops, college nights, and class visits. In response to local schools visits, Northeastern is connecting more administrative staff with local schools and coordinating efforts to inform students of the enrollment process. It is a fact that Northeastern has gone out and visited schools in and around Boston. However, it is important to take in account that schools like Dorchester High and Jeremiah E. Burke were visited only once while school like Belmont High and Medford High were visited three times. Maybe it's because these schools took the initiative in collaborating the visits with NU or maybe it's those students that have a better chance of succeeding at North-

eastern. Nevertheless, I am a graduate of the Boston Public School system. My school never once received a college visit. But I will be graduating from Northeastern this fall.

The goal of this article is to let you determine whether Northeastern truly is doing everything it possibly can to become a service to the community in which it sits; because students, such as Carla and Justin, deserve at least that much. Next month, we'll take a more in depth look at what Northeastern's goals are in graduates of Boston Public schools and the measures taken to alleviate some of the stresses of heavy financial burdens and issues in student morale.

## Noteworthy

### **The Newly Established African-American Studies Club**

by Angelo Lynn

The African-American studies club is a new organization that has come together this quarter. The organization was started to bring awareness to African American studies and student activism on campus. Not to many students are aware of the African-American studies department located in 132 Nightingale Hall headed by Dean Chandler, who will also be an advisor to the organization.

One of the main focuses is to increase awareness of African-American studies as a major or a minor. Students need to be aware that they can study this part of African-American culture and the different concentrations within African-American studies.

Organization members consist of undergraduate students of all backgrounds and to work with the various student groups on campus to improve Northeastern. The group would like to take more proactive approach in diversifying the Northeastern University campus and recruiting more students of color into the University.

Meetings for the African-American Studies Club are held every Monday at 5:30 at 132 Nightingale Hall.

Pizza and refreshments will be served, so please come out and support the African-American Studies Club.

For more information, please contact the African-American Studies department.

## **LASO Goes into the Community**

Remember when you were a high school senior and you had all those doubts about going to college? Remember how financial aid problems and your career interests would do nothing more than stress you out? Well, there are many graduating high school seniors this year that are going through the same dilemmas that we did, so that's why some students in the Latin American Student Organization (LASO) decided that they should help out.

A small committee within LASO has taken it upon themselves to go into public high schools within the Boston area and try to get those seniors in high school who feel that they want to hold off on their college careers and urge them to give college another look, also offering a different perspective of college other than that of expensive tuition and books.

This effort that we are working on is titled "Shadow Day". High school seniors from selected schools will follow (shadow) Northeastern students around the campus and to classes as usual, hopefully gaining a different outlook about what they'll encounter when they start their college career. At the end of their day, we'll have a small get together and supply them with information on how to get financial aid and scholarships, and also answer any questions they might have regarding their career interests.

### **PROJECT SEEKS AFRICAN-AMERICAN VETERAN HISTORIES**

by Andre Jean-Francois

The Veterans History Project is a project of the Library of Congress through its American Folklife Center to collect and preserve oral histories and documentary materials from veterans of World War I, World War II, and the Korean, Vietnam, and Persian Gulf Wars. The project was created by Congress in legislation sponsored by Senators Max Cleland, Chuck Hagel, Ron Kind, Amo Houghton, and Steny Hoyer. The legislation passed unanimously in both the House and the Senate. AARP is the founding private sector sponsor of the project. To learn more about the project and to see a listing of more than 150 Official Partners and the members of its Five-Star Council, visit [www.loc.gov/folklife/vets](http://www.loc.gov/folklife/vets).

Individuals, family members, veterans, civic groups, and organizations are invited to interview African-American veterans by contacting the Veterans History Project, where staff will provide guidance to ensure that an audio or video interview be made and preserved at the Library of Congress as part of the permanent record of the nation's history.

Noting that "the service and sacrifice of our war veterans is the bulwark of our freedoms," James H. Billington, Librarian of Congress, stated that "the record of their services must be preserved for future generations."

The American Folklife Center is asking that those who would like to participate call the toll-free message line (888-371-5848) to request a kit leaving their names and mailing addresses or contact the Veterans History Project by e-mail at [vohp@loc.gov](mailto:vohp@loc.gov).



## Students &amp; Taxes:

## Getting Back as Much Money as You Can

by Princess Cooper-Brown

Understanding how taxes affect you is very important. But making sure that you are getting back as much money as you can when you file your income tax return is even more important.

Each year from January until mid-March, employers are sending out those small neatly folded W-2 forms, which have all of your tax withholdings and wage earnings listed in small neatly arranged boxes. But, how well do you understand the process of filling out those 1040 and 1040ez forms (an individual's federal tax return)? Not surprisingly, the IRS allows students to take many exemptions, also called credits, that decrease the amount you are required to payout in taxes. Often, this results in a nice little refund check in the spring.

As with most things involving money, if you do not know much about properly filling out your tax return, about your filing status, or about the types of exemptions you are permitted to take, you may end up owing Uncle Sam.

First things first: What is your filing status? Filing status determines how much money the IRS will allow you to deduct from your earnings when calculating taxes. Most undergraduate students file under "Single". But, if anyone can claim you as a dependent on his or her tax return (like a parent or guardian), you are treated as a Dependent. Special

considerations are given to Dependents, so when reading through any instructions, pay careful attention.

The first part of a tax return is determining income. Most of this information comes directly from your W-2 forms. However, income from self-employment, investments (i.e. interest, savings bonds, dividends, etc.), and taxable portions of Scholarships/Fellowships are other forms of taxable income that must be included on your return.

Scholarships and fellowships have special tax treatment by the IRS and in some cases are completely tax-free. The IRS requires that you must be a candidate for a degree at an educational institution AND that the scholarship/fellowship is Qualified (meaning, it is received and used for tuition; fees paid to enroll in/or attend an educational institution; or for equipment that is required for all students for the course at the institution). "However, if the terms of the grant require its use for other purposes, such as room and board, or specify that the grant cannot be used for tuition or course-related expenses, the amount received under the grant are not tax free" [IRS Publication 520 Scholarships and Fellowships].

In order to determine the taxable and tax-free portions of a scholarship or fellowship, the IRS has a worksheet with six steps to guide you. The Scholarship and Fellowship Income Worksheet is available on-line at the IRS website, or in

**Taxes, see page 17**

## No Need for \$\$\$...

## Just GOOD Credit

by Candice J. Shaw

Recently, I decided to apply for an additional credit card to help manage the other three major ones I have. I figure that I would consolidate all of my credit card debt into one card since I felt that my credit was good and I wanted to cut down on the amount of monthly bills I pay. When I received the rejection letter for the new credit card, I was very upset. After being rejected for credit, I had the opportunity to request a free credit report from credit reporting agencies (usually a fee is charged).



I called all three major credit rating agencies in the country to request my credit report. It is recommended that you get a report from all three agencies because they may have different information regarding your credit history.

A credit score was included in one of my reports. According to Trans Union, a credit agency, a credit score is a computer generated mathematical calculation of the information that appears in a credit report. The credit score is based on data about your credit history and payment behavior. Higher scores indicate that you are less likely to be delinquent in payments on a new account. The maximum credit score is 934 and 150 is the minimum.

There are four primary factors that determine your score:

**Credit, see page 7**

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## Credit, from page 6

**1- Length of time accounts have been established is too short:** The longer your credit history, the easier it is to determine your payment behavior patterns.

**2- Too many active accounts with a balance:** Accounts with balances on your report will have a negative impact on your score.

**3- Too many derogatory accounts or public records:** Civil judgement, bankruptcy, or tax liens are examples.

**4- Too many inquiries:** This one definitely comes as a surprise. The more credit applications you submit, the more negative impact you add to your credit score.

One of the most important reasons to request your credit report is to detect if there has been any fraudulent activity done by someone using your identity. When I reviewed my credit reports, I found out that someone had purchased a laptop computer and a few cell phones with my credit.

*It can only benefit you to request a copy of your credit report.* Listed below are three credit reporting agencies:

Experian	888-524-3606
Equifax	800-685-1111
Trans Union	800-888-4213

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## TAX TIP FOR NON-MASS RESIDENTS:

Fill out a form 1-Non-Resident/Part-Year Resident Form (1-NR/PY). This form is especially for nonresidents, most out of state students are eligible if they received income from working in Mass. You may be able to get back taxes paid to the state of Massachusetts, and getting back more money is well worth your while!

To read more about this form, pick up a copy at the library or go on line to [www.mass.gov/dor](http://www.mass.gov/dor).



# S.U.M.: Start Up Money

How to gain and maintain wealth & start up your own business

by C. Browne, otherwise known as SDC

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1. Nobody is going to get you to where you have to go except yourselves, so put your shoes on and button up, because it's cold outside.
2. Ideas are only dreams, but once you write them down, they become plans.
3. Remember that people are human, so they will always make mistakes and usually aren't reliable, so always hope for the best and expect the worst.
4. Money and friends don't mix like two kicks and no whip, find yourself walking the strip.
5. Yo' Jordan is rich, you're not, so start spending that \$200 on something more useful like studio equipment or something.
6. What you want to do, probably has already been done, so all you have to do now is think out the box.
7. Remember, if you find a job that you love to do, you won't have to work another day in your life.
8. A team builds a business; an individual makes a living.
9. Open up a lemonade stand to make some income, just do something useful with your time.
10. Believe and have faith in yourself.

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Schooling is what happens inside the wall of the school, some of which is educational. Education happens everywhere, and it happens from the moment a child is born -- some say before--until it dies. ~Sara Lawrence Lightfoot, 1989

## Maximizing Your Doctor's Appointment

by Amy Morgan

In today's fast-paced society it seems as though nobody has enough time to do anything; the true application of multi-tasking is now the way of life. For some aspects of society, this type of living may be more efficient and even desired. Yet, in healthcare this type of living is more cost-efficient to the provider but less helpful to the patient. Doctor's visits are one area of healthcare that has been extremely affected. Until changes in healthcare policies are implemented, there are a few simple tips that patients can follow in order to maximize visits to the doctor's and to get the healthcare they deserve and pay for.

The first misconception is that one you should go to the doctor only when you are sick. On the contrary, your doctor should be someone you visit once a year, regardless of your health status, for an annual check-up. Annual check-ups are important in order for you and your doctor to monitor any changes in your body, weight gain/loss, blood counts, blood pressure, eyes and ears. It is important to have a doctor you feel comfortable talking to and one that is willing to work WITH you to find the best course of action to ensure good health for you.

You should be able to make an appointment that is going to fit your schedule. Some things to keep in mind:

1) Although your actual appointment is only scheduled for fifteen to thirty minutes, going to the doctor's

office may take over an hour. Time spent waiting for the doctor, or taking blood and urine samples. You should schedule enough time in your day to account for unexpected waiting.

2) Do not be afraid to tell the receptionist what your appointment is for, it is their business, and they are the people that analyze your problem and schedule an appropriate time period the doctor will need to see you.

3) If you hate waiting for the doctor, try to schedule an appointment when the office first opens or right after the lunch break, these are times when the doctor is most likely to be on schedule.

**After an appointment has been made, what should be done before and during your visit?** If you are going to the doctor for an annual check-up, take some time before the visit and think of any problems, questions or concerns you may have had throughout the past year. (Ladies you should try to remember exactly when your last period was). If the nature of your visit is for a specific problem or illness, bring in a list of symptoms, how they have changed throughout the course of your illness and how long you have had the symptoms. Writing down answers to these questions and concerns will make your visit faster and smoother. Also, knowing what medications and vitamins you are taking and any lab/test results you have received from another doctor

**Doctor, see page 12**

## The Plague of the All-Nighter

By Tyese Gaines

***Pulling all-nighters is the way of life for many college students at some point in their career. However, with all the consequences of sleep deprivation, is getting the 4.0 really worth it?***

After a night of hitting the books without sleep, the next day may feel an awful lot like the flu – body aches, pounding headaches, fatigue, a nauseated stomach, and jittery feelings. Unless one counts the derangement that sparked the idea to stay awake in the first place, it is probably not an illness – let alone the flu, just sleep deprivation. Unlike the flu, there is an easy cure. Sleep. Sleep. And more sleep. However, if allowed to continue, sleep deprivation has many consequences, some life threatening.

Usually the infamous all-nighter

comes as a last minute attempt to achieve academic success. Although many students claim these sessions as their scholastic saviors, they could actually be counterproductive. In a study by the University of California – San Diego (UCSD), researchers observed that students with the highest GPAs slept more hours at night, and maintained a steady sleep schedule. The researchers attributed higher GPAs with students who were well rested, thus they were more alert and

**Sleep, see page 11**



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## **Sleep from page 10**

attentive in class.

In another UCSD study, sleep deprivation altered brain activity in the portions of the brain that control language processing and learning. It showed a lessened ability to perform calculation and cognitive tasks. When deprived of sleep, the subjects had fewer correct answers and skipped more questions than when well rested.

In addition to matters of concentration and cognition, health consequences exist as well. Studies suggest a correlation between the amounts of deep sleep acquired each night and the immune system's ability to fight off infection. It also suggests that sleep deprivation decreases overall life expectancy. Higher levels of stress, anxiety, depression, mood swings and hallucinations can occur after extended periods without sleep.

Safety is another major issue. Coordination, reaction time, and judgment are all affected when less than six hours of sleep per night are

acquired. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that driver fatigue is the cause of 100,000 motor vehicle accidents and 1500 deaths each year. Consequently, falling asleep at the wheel is a leading cause of death and disability. Experiments have shown that people who stay awake for 17-19 consecutive hours perform equally or worse on driving and hand-eye coordination tests than those with a blood alcohol level of .05 percent (the legal limits in most states are between .08 and .1 percent).

### **How to protect yourself:**

**Understand the importance of sleep. Experts in the field are still unsure about the specific benefits of sleep. Nevertheless, it is understood that the brain does not shut down while asleep. Specific patterns of electrical and chemical activity occur during slumber that allow us to function normally while awake. It is speculated that this change in activity allows neurons to repair themselves in the down time.**

Recognize sleep debt. Although certain supermen and superwomen will claim to sleep 20 hours a week and still remain functional, sleep debt unquestionably accumulates. Each person has an amount of sleep necessary for optimal function. Sleeping less than this amount creates a sleep debt that can only be repaid with extra sleep the next night. The NIH insists that if daytime drowsiness occurs – even in boring activities – not enough sleep is being achieved at night and a sleep debt exists. Many people, and their physicians, deny their sleep debt, by blaming it on a virus – like the flu – stress, aging, or depression. When, in fact, sleep deprivation is the true cause.

Although daytime sleepiness is the norm for Americans, it is neither healthy nor safe, and should not be ignored. One study examined a group of people who denied having a problem with daytime drowsiness; 34% were actually found to be dangerously sleepy – at risk for some sort of accident. Drowsy driving (not remembering the last few miles, or dozing off) can lead to disaster, because drowsiness is the very last step before falling asleep, not the first.

When recovering from an all-nighter or working the late shift, be sure to sleep one to three hours as soon as you arrive home. Then sleep 12-14 hours that night. Naps have proven to make up for nighttime sleep debt as well.

In the long run, time management is the key. Good overall health leads to good mental zhealth and will provide the grades and productivity desired. Try to maintain a steady sleep schedule. If all-nighters are inevitable, make sure to replenish that sleep as soon as possible, as not to cause further physical or academic harm.

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## **Black Blood... Why is it so Important?**

by Amy Morgan

Within recent years there has been a large push for people of African, Latin and Asian descent, from hospitals and donor centers to donate blood. The push is due to the lack of participation in blood donation from these different racial groups. Recently, healthcare providers and other various organizations have actively begun to recruit volunteers of African descent to participate in the donating process. Blood type determines which blood a person will receive, and everybody – regardless of race or ethnicity – has one out of the four major blood types. Thus it is very important for people of African descent to donate

blood.

What's in your blood? Often termed the river of life, blood makes up approximately 8% of a person's body weight, which results in about five liters for adult humans. Blood is comprised of two parts: plasma and cells. It functions to carry oxygen and nutrients to cells and helps to remove waste products from the body.

The cells in blood consist of red blood cells (RBC), white blood cells (WBC) and platelets. The RBCs are the most abundant. Their primary function is to transport oxygen from the lungs to other cells in the body; and also helps in the removal of carbon monoxide.

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**Blood, see page 13**

# Love and Hate...

## Emotions or Chemicals?

by Amy Morgan

After Valentine's passing and spring around the corner love is in the air and many of us may be walking around not hiding the fact that you are in love. After meeting your Valentine, you may have experienced one or more of the common signs of love: blood rushing to your face, heavy breathing, sweaty palms or loss of appetite or desire to sleep. Aside from these physical symptoms, there are others as a feeling of constant delight or loss of logical thinking that accompany love. Yet, where do all of these symptoms come from, are they simply emotions that we feel or is our brain involved in some sort of chemical process that produces these symptoms within your body.

The chemistry and biology behind sex, love and hate have been a topic that many scientists have studied within the past few years and a subject many of us find fascinating. Feelings of euphoria and bliss, loss of logical thinking, and the sometimes loss of love, are not just emotions you feel, but emotions produced by actual chemical processes in your body that make you feel the way you feel and do the things you do.

When an individual feels like they have fallen in love, the first thing that happens is the increased flow of certain chemicals throughout the brain. Dopamine, the first chemical that increases its production, is termed the "pleasure chemical," because it causes euphoric feelings as well as decreases pain. Next, the chemical adrenaline increases in the

brain. Adrenaline is known as the flight and fight response. It increases circulation (causing the heart to beat faster), heightens awareness and a decrease appetite. In addition, phenyl ethylamine increases in the brain. This chemical is an ingredient naturally found in chocolate and causes feelings of complete happiness. Finally, during sexual stimulation, oxytocin is produced in the brain. Oxytocin is a sexual arousal hormone in the body that signals the emotion of attachment. (Not to mention this hormone also signals orgasm and an overload of this chemical allows a woman to have multiple or whole body orgasms). The depletion of this hormone after an overload, may result in the disillusionment of love, or cause the feelings of attachment often experienced after sex.

Scientists concluded that love can be explained in three stages. The first stage of love is lust, which allows a person to look for a romantic partner. The second stage, romantic love, is created by chemical processes in the brain that allow a person to focus on one partner. And the last stage, attachment, allows a person to stay in a long relationship. Like a drug addiction, the brain builds up a tolerance to the overload of chemicals that are released during the beginning stages of love; thus more of these chemicals are needed to get the "love high". Therefore some people who spend a couple of weeks with one person and then move on for no apparent reason may actually be addicted to the feeling they get when



they meet someone new. (Although scientifically proven, I would not use this as a break-up line).

For all of those who have not gotten over the hump of moving from the romantic love to the attachment stage, don't count it out yet.

With all of those chemicals being produced out of your control and spring quickly approaching, please be safe and treat others with respect.

### Doctor, from page 10

and your family history are important information to have with you.

During your appointment, don't be shy or embarrassed to talk to your doctor. Keep in mind that your doctor has probably seen most problems you have or may have even experienced some themselves. Keep in mind that if you don't voice your concerns your doctor will never know them and cannot treat them properly. Tell your doctor everything you know, feel and think about your health, it will help them to diagnose and treat you better. In addition, ask as many questions as you need to. Feel free to ask your doctor to repeat anything she or he said as many times as it takes for you to understand. Ask your doctor to use plain English, not medical jargon. You need to be able to understand what your problems are and how they are being treated. For more complicated issues, bring a family member or friend to go with you.

Keep in mind that you can talk to your doctor about your diet or exercise plan, family/relationship problems or issues surrounding your work. Lastly, don't be afraid to question your doctor, you know your body best, and if you have concerns about a treatment plan or a test be-



## **Doctor, from page 12**

ing performed, say so!

Upon leaving the exam room, ask your doctor to send you a written summary of what was discussed, and the course of action that is to be taken. Don't be scared to ask your doctor questions, express your concerns or ask for more information, many doctor's like when the patient is interested in their own health, it makes their job easier. When you choose a doctor, take into consideration competence, access, and personality. If you feel as though your doctor is missing any of your criteria, you may want to consider finding another doctor.

## **Blood from page 11**

As mentioned before, blood types are the determining factor when receiving a blood transfusion. The four major blood types are A, B, AB and O. Blood type is determined by specific tests performed on proteins, also known as antigens, located in the RBC. If tests indicate both the A antigen and the B antigen are in the

RBCs, the blood type is AB. If tests indicate only the A antigen is present, the blood type is A; if the B antigen is present, the Blood type is B. And, type O has neither antigen. In addition to antigens A and B, there are Rh antigens located on the RBCs. The most common type of Rh antigen is the D antigen. If the D antigen is in the RBCs, your blood type is positive (+); when the D antigen is not present, blood type is negative (-).

The push for people of African descent to donate blood stems from the blood types that people of these race and ethnicities tend to have. According to scientists, people of African descent are more likely to have the most rare blood types including O-. Blood type O- is considered the universal donor because anyone with any blood type can receive an O- transfusion. Secondly, the proteins mentioned above are the most common types of proteins, but they are not the only types of proteins located on the blood cells. Sick cell, a disease that affects RBCs, affects people of African descent. Individuals that have sickle cell are often re-

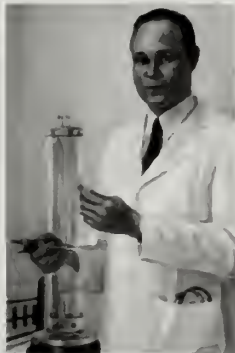
quired to have a blood transfusion. Doctors and scientists have found that donors of African descent provide closer matches to patients of African descent, thus reducing risks of a patient rejecting the transfusion.

By donating blood, allow individuals to become part of the National Bone Marrow Donating Registry. Bone marrow is where all new blood cells are produced. People who have cancers of the blood may need healthy bone marrow from a donor in order to stay alive; as with blood types, the closer the match, the better the chances of a successful transfusion. Thousands of people die each year because they cannot find a donor to match their marrow.

If you are skeptical about donating your blood, I confess that I was too. Yet, rest assured that sterile procedures are utilized and new and better testing virtually eliminates the risks of any infections or disease that may be contracted when donating or receiving blood. If you have any questions or concerns about donating blood, contact your physician or a blood donor center. Please donate and give life to someone in need.

## **Did You Know...**

Born June 3, 1904 in Washington D.C., graduating from Amherst University, receiving a medical Degree from McGill University and a doctorate from Columbia University in 1940, African American Surgeon, Charles Drew became a pioneer in the development of blood banks and blood transfusions. Through experiments with blood plasma, he discovered a more effective means of collecting and storing blood until it was needed for transfusions. His new method sustained blood for longer periods of time and limited the possibility of contamination by a significant amount.



At the start of World War 2, he was appointed the medical supervisor for the "Blood for Britain" project, which saved the lives of many wounded soldiers at the front. His success within the War brought him much notoriety

as he was then named director of the Red Cross Blood Bank and assistant director to the National Research Council, in charge of the blood collection for the U.S. Army and Navy. As Drew set up the blood bank and trained staff, he also spoke out against the armed forces' directive that blood was to be separated according to the race of the donor, because he knew there was no racial difference in blood. Soldiers and sailors would die needlessly if they had to wait for "same race" blood.

On April 1, 1950 in Tuskegee, Alabama, Dr. Drew was in a tragic car accident. Newspaper accounts said that the hospital nearest the accident refused to admit him because of his race. Precious time was lost, as Dr. Drew was taken further down the road to a black hospital. By the time he arrived there, he had lost so much blood that no one could have saved his life. Fatally ironic, the man who had done more than anyone else in the world to make blood transfusions available to people in emergency situations did not have access to a blood transfusion when he needed it.

# ONYX Edutainment

Great careers don't come without sacrifice. Something in your life will probably have to go. Decide, now, what you're willing to forfeit to get what you want.

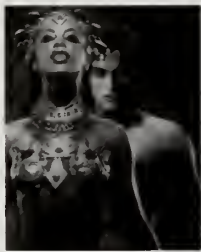
~ Cydney & Leslie Shields, 1993

## BLACK ACTORS IN 2002, OFF TO A STRONG START

by Zia Bartley

Recently the big screen has been graced with many African American actors and actresses. The world is getting a view of people such as Denzel Washington, Halle Berry, and also stars from the world of music including rapper Mos Def, Sean Combs and the late great Aaliyah. Black actors are definitely on the rise and here is why.

*Queen of the Damned*, starring Aaliyah and Stuart Townsend, is a film based on a book by Anne Rice. Anne Rice's best selling "The Vampire Chronicles" have paved a way for vampires to appear in motion pictures, personifying these demonic creatures. The plot of the movie will be confusing to those who have not



read the book, so catch up on your reading. The vampire Lestat (Stuart Townsend), bored with hanging around in a coffin, decides to re-invent himself as a modern-day rock star. So he comes out of the crypt, so to speak, and admits that, yes, he drinks blood and he's proud of it. He becomes an instant media sensation, and the other vampires aren't pleased. Meanwhile, Jesse (Marguerite Moreau), a young student of all things dark and dangerous, becomes obsessed with meeting Lestat after reading his secret diary. So she arranges an

**Black Actors, see page 16**

## Hub Caps to Dub Raps

*Coming at you in 3D, Jaguar Wright - Denials, Delusions, and Decisions*

by Killa B Da Bandit

Now you usually don't get your boy Killa B on that R&B tip, but since we just finished dealing with Valentines and we're about to hop into spring, it's only right that we discuss the issues of love and relationships. Our special guest speaker is going to be the lovely Miss Jaguar Wright. That's right, she's the female who's been blessing the stage with The Roots and piping on that Jay-Z Unplugged joint. It was wild to hear this sultry voice chrome out the chorus for "Girls, Girls, Girls" and then flip "The Ghetto Anthem" down to a science. Yet on her debut album, *Denials, Delusions, and Decisions*, she doesn't keep it all fun and games.

She gets down to the joys and pains of love and relationships with songs like "Love Need and Want You" and "Ain't Nobody Playin'", where she brings it back to the Vaseline on the face before a fight with a girl who's tryin' to snatch up your man, type of feel. She's a little reminiscent of the wonderful Jill Scott, but with more of a street (real street and free spirited) appeal to her.

To describe her would be like saying she is similar to gangsta rap, so I guess she would be gangsta soul R&B. She's not afraid to hold her tongue and on songs with fellow Neo Soul artist Bilal ("I Can't Wait") they go back and forth on a lyrical strip tease for the mind (crazy). Yet she doesn't always talk about the relationship scenario, she also brings in issues concerning everyday life. On my favorite track on the album "Self Love", she flips the English language ridiculously while telling the masses to get up, get out, and love yourselves. Forget the past on this artist, because all that matters is her future and it's looking like a bright one that will be at you in 3D form.

**Hubcaps to 20 inch rims rating system:** This album gets a 16inch rim rating, and that's bigger than what I'm pushing!



In the next edition of Hub Caps to Dub Raps, I will finally be analyzing the new joint from Dead Prez (hopefully). I will also be taking a look into the latest events taking place in and around town. Shoutouts to Mattapan Music, Divine Styler and don't forget to tune in Sunday and Monday Nights to 104.9 FM WRBB ([www.wrbbbradio.org](http://www.wrbbbradio.org)) for "The Beehive" w/ Killa BDa Bandit and IBLT Fam (Sun. 10pm-12am) & "Boom Bap 101" w/DJ Therion and Homemade Crew (Mon. 10pm-12am)

**HAVE YOUR PARTY OR EVENT REVIEWED.**

**JUST WRITE TO US: [ONYXINFORMER@YAHOO.COM](mailto:ONYXINFORMER@YAHOO.COM)**



**Surface Transit:** Sarah Jones is the phenomenon that harbors more personalities that can be counted, that soulful entity that channels more identities than that crazy lady Sybil. The spoken word artist/poet/playwright/performer, the new aged entertainer, the “one woman show”. She is solo virtuoso, Sarah Jones... and all that is an understatement.

Now let me find out you haven't heard about her or been blessed enough to have seen her shine. Don't worry ; I'll put you on as best I can. I received my blessings about a year and a half ago while home in NY for “no-op.” But that was all right , I had enough money in my pocket, and more than enough time to follow suit on the artist who won the Nuyorican Poet's Café's Grand Slam in 1997 with “Your Revolution,” and remixed version of Gil Scott heron's poem “The Revolution will not be Televised.”

Surface Transit is Jones' theatrical, eight-character multicultural monologue that weaves each individual story into an interconnected collaborative narrative. Each character in each skit lives through Jones' center stage performance that thrives off of distinguished characteristics ranging from the uncanny duplicated accents, to carbon-copied mannerisms. The reproduction of the characters are so razor-sharp that the carbon copies of real life people, in real life situations, appear to be nothing less than authentic.

In this performance, Sarah Jones phases from character to character, presenting you with a Jewish grandmother that rejects her gay grandson, before soon transforming into a young British actress from the West Indies know as Sugar, who is trying to get her 15 minutes of fame as she auditions for an MTV reality show. Out of nowhere, but very much pertinent, she morphs into a

hip hop junky, who is addicted to the culture, and is now apart of a 12 step program geared towards alleviating the need and want for hip hop.

The spectrum that encases the other characters, conveyed on stage is wild, considering that this is all coming from one person. Sarah Jones is the truth. I could not do much justice by writing on it in all its forms: reality.

If I have interested you in peeping the show, I suggest you cop that \$25 deal on the Fung Wah bus and make your way towards NYC. But, wouldn't it be ill if she performed in Boston? It definitely would be cause on the real...



## **Hang or Bang:**

### **Top 5 Albums to Hang**

**(Albums that should stay on the shelf)**

- 1) State Property-Motion Picture Soundtrack (Roc-a-fella)  
“This is another reason why Jay-Z will never retire”
- 2) Lil' Bow Wow-Doggy Bag  
“I bet ya'll thought I would never touch this one, but HA! The amount of songs he has on the album is a representation of when he was hot (13)”
- 3) Timbaland & Magoo-Indecent Proposal  
“I figured it out...Nas writes for Eminem, Eminem for Snoop Doog, Snoop for Dr.Dre, Dre for Bubba Sparxx, Bubba for Timbaland, Tim for Missy, and Missy for Magoo. (It makes sense if you think about it)”
- 4) Warren G-The Return of the Regulator  
“Why would you return if nobody missed you?”
- 5) N.E.R.D-In Search Of...  
“The only thing they should be in search of is a better album”

### **Top 5 Albums to Bang**

**(Albums You Need to Purchase!)**

- 1) X-Ecutioners-Built From Scratch  
“A must have for aspiring DJ's...the true essence of hip-hop has returned”
- 2) Nappy Roots-Watermelon, Chicken & Gritz  
“Awnaw, hell naw, I bet ya'll ain't see this coming”
- 3) New Breed-Stop the Music  
“Hard to get, but if you do, don't let go.  
Check out [www.uprokrecords.com](http://www.uprokrecords.com)”
- 4) Cornel West-Sketches of My Culture  
“A must have for aspiring rappers...actually, for anybody aspiring to be anything”
- 5) DJ Therion-Commitment  
“Therion hits ya'll with that R&B mix to set the mood right or get the party started”

**By Killa B Da Bandit**

# Soul Speech

I've learned over a period of years there are setbacks when you come up against the immovable object; sometimes the object doesn't move.

~Coleman Young

## ***Revolution or You***

by Angelo Lynn

The Revolution or You Baby  
I don't know  
I try to teach you baby  
Enlighten you  
But baby, you still on that America the Beautiful  
Can't you see we still slaves  
But when the Revolution come  
That sh\*t gonna change  
Choices will have to be made  
To be free or stay a slave  
But when the Revolution come  
Some people will be taken out  
The millionaires and billionaires, White and Black  
Hung at the stake, with their bellies cut out, for the  
greediness they've showed,  
Against all the hungry starving people of the world  
Cause I am for all oppressed & working class  
people  
I feel their pain  
Cause when the Revolution come  
All oppressive and imperialist governments will be  
taken out  
Whether it be the U.S. government or the Taliban  
F&ck Patriotism  
Holding up some damn flag  
Your Great-Great Grandmother was raped under  
that same flag  
You were left to deal crack or serve in the army  
under that same flag  
Don't ever hang that flag in my presence  
Cause when the Revolution come  
That Red, White, and Blue  
It's not gonna burn, its gonna be buried  
The Revolution is coming  
And I know I love you  
But I got to go with my heart  
And I choose the Revolution

To be continued  
Coming to a hood near you.....

## ***I is a West Indian***

by Dirk

I is ah West Indian  
I is ah Trinidadian  
All yuh tink yuh know we  
All yuh ent know we at all  
All yuh feel we is ah set ah rum-drinking, ganja smoking,  
lazy peoples sittin' in de sun an havin' fun  
Yuh tink we does we does pick coconut  
Fuh a livin an live in trees or huts

I is ah West Indian  
I is ah Trinidadian  
We fadders and mudders come from ahcross de sea  
Luk at me, Whatcha tink yuh see  
Some say I look filipino hispanic or chinee  
Nutten 'rong wid dat  
but mih blood have more dan dat

I is ah West Indian  
I is ah Trinidadian  
Yeah I look like ah come from de banks of Yangtse  
Or I may come from de Iberian  
But in mih flow de blood of of de Irish  
who came to America just to live

I is ah West Indian  
I is ah Trinidadian  
de French an de English mastas in here too  
addin to de blend  
De spirit of de carib runs true in me  
dem dat which gih we de name of de Caribbean Sea  
I hav de blood of dose of de Serengetti Plain  
de blood of de Indians who come to take de wuk in de  
cane

I is ah West Indian  
I is ah Trinidadian  
We gih all yuh rhythm an beat  
An songs to move all yuh feet  
From de drums of we people we make yuh jump we  
Calypso, reggae, Zouk, now soca, Raga & Chutney  
Dis we story and take dat

I is ah Trinidadian  
I is ah West Indian



## ARTIFICIAL REALITY

by Joseph J. Banda

Controlled by the ills of the tube  
Woven from the roots of realness  
Bound by strings that glisten  
Not yours even if you desired  
Dollared artificially instead of purchas-  
ing assets  
Jordaned but not Schwabbed for no  
reason  
Walking like you run the world  
Not realizing that you are still picking  
Petroled into whores & pimps  
Alike but dissimilar  
Knowledge of the game  
Antithesized to running the game  
Whisper and lay with warriors that  
come up  
In the being spoke visions in those  
eyes  
With the punani bought Gucci and  
Fendi bags  
That you eat from?  
But holler when it's time  
And get in line with the rest  
No matter what  
No matter how  
You are here at the street light  
Making moves with city sweepers  
Knowing the intricacies of dirt  
At junctions maneuvering through  
rapids  
Wishing that your seeds were like your  
nana  
But in the mirror a woman is seen  
Sparking up with her friends  
She speaks of love with hatred  
As if experienced with the heart  
Tongue quickening with acid  
Rough cut by pissy stairs and 89th  
street corners  
Spoken about by politicians that fear  
the thought of  
This fallen woman that I yearn for  
Potential infinite, but sight cloudy from  
two feet away  
Just like myself  
For now at least  
Hopefully just for now...x

## OR BETTER YET

by Andrew Oloweu

(This piece was written at a moment of sudden awareness. Maybe it was how painful the black struggle has been in America or better yet how disheartening the black experience continues to be in recent times)

Could she be having **sex** at fourteen? Or better yet, knocked up at **fifteen**?  
Why did he **drop** out of school? Or better yet, why is his **whip** dropped?  
Do you address **her** by other names? Or better yet, why is she your main **H\*E**?  
Where is our **bowl** of Knowledge? Or better yet, where is our **spoon** of understanding?  
How is it that **they** call us lazy? Or better yet, why do they **think** we are crazy?

Maybe we are **disliked** in America or better yet, we are **hated** around the world.  
Maybe **we** suffer from selective listening or better yet, we **suffer** from amnesia.  
Didn't **Martin** preach loud enough or better yet, didn't **Malcolm** demand an Explanation?  
Could it **be** we are not blessed? Or Better yet, are we **cursed** forever?  
Do you **know** who we are? Or better yet, do **you** know who we be?

## ONLY IN MY DREAMS LORD

by Judeci, da Don

In these days of darkness, in this world of jealousy  
You could be the man today, but tomorrow just a memory  
In penitentiaries or jail cells where thugs dwell  
We're locked in a facility that remind us of hell  
Only time would tell who you could trust at the end  
Life's a b\*tch son, but ain't a b\*tch a man's best friend?  
From the start till the end we been sinning against God  
By planting our seeds deep inside the devil's back yard  
And you wonder why your child love raisin' hell.  
When all his life, he was f\*ckin' raised in hell  
It ain't hard to tell who's real or who's not  
Like Israel our sins got our @ss tangled in a knot  
Moving from *Salem's Lot* to the nightmares on *Elm Street*.  
Having to go against the one you love is one of hell's treat.  
A birthday wish for my ex-b\*tch, hoping I die in jail.  
I put my life in God's hands cause he's keeping it real.  
Life's a raw deal, a field full of evil and war.  
The devil masturbate us around like the fools that we are.  
If you don't stand for anything, for anything you will fall.  
You need to get your head right like that brotha Mac Mall.

**Continued from page 12**

assignment, which results in a spark of mutual attraction. But Jesse has a rival for Lestat's affections - the evil and powerful Queen Akasha (Aaliyah), who has recently risen from her slumber and intends for the rock star vampire to be her consort. Aaliyah who debuted in *Romeo Must Die*, is astonishing in this film. It is a tragedy that this is the last time we will see her on the big screen

*John Q* tells the story of a man, John Archibald (Denzel Washington), who is having trouble making ends meet. Since his work week has been cut from 40 hours to 20 hours, he has been unable to keep up with payments on his wife's car. When his son, Mike (Daniel E. Smith), collapses on a baseball field and is diagnosed as needing a heart transplant, John is confident that things will be okay, because he has medical insurance. Unfortunately, it turns out that his Tier II coverage doesn't cover \$250,000 operations. The hospital director, Rebecca Payne (Anne Heche), refuses to put Mike's name on the organ recipient list until John can cover the \$75,000 down payment. The cardiologist, Dr. Turner (James Woods), claims that the matter is out



of his hands. But John's wife, Denise (Kimberly Elise), screams at him that he has to do *something*. So he does - he takes everyone in the hospital's emergency room hostage. When the police, led by the crusty negotiator Grimes (Robert Duvall) and the chief of police, Monroe (Ray Liotta), arrive, he presents his demand: he will release the hostages when his son has a new heart. Otherwise, he will start killing them. Washington is convincing as a desperate father who has run out of legal options and can think of no other alternative but to point a gun and hope no one calls his bluff. This film is riveting as many of us know what it is like to feel like we have no options. Denzel played his part beautifully as he always does.

*Monster's Ball* is a powerful motion picture not about racism and redemption, as one might initially suppose, but about one of the most urgent and universal of human needs - that of finding solace for pain and loneliness. Though it has some of the trappings of an interracial romance, *Monster's Ball* is not that, either. The



sex in this movie is not a herald to love; it is a means by which two people can find temporary refuge from their otherwise bleak existences. An orgasm is an effective way to wipe away everything else, if only for a few moments. The principle male character is Hank Grotowski (Billy Bob Thornton), a corrections officer who is greatly respected at work, but whose home life is a disaster. It's hard to say whether he has a worse relationship with his surly, racist father (Peter Boyle) or his soft-hearted son (Heath Ledger). Hank is charged with supervising the execution of death-row inmate Lawrence Musgrove (Sean Combs), a cop killer who has exhausted 11 years' worth of appeals. Lawrence has a son, Tyrell (Coronji Calhoun), who idolizes him, and a wife, Leticia (Halle Berry), who can't stand him. Following the execution, both Hank and Leticia suffer shocking, unexpected tragedies, and, in the wake of one of these, they are thrown together. And, because they happen to be there, they turn to each other. This movie is an epic of the struggles one goes through in hard times and how two particular people mask their pain. Halle Berry is riveting and personifies a woman in need of love perfectly. Her character is strong-willed and compelled to make it through life, with or without a man. Sean Combs acting debut is somewhat brief but is definitely a start. He definitely has a long way to go, but if he learns from the rest of the cast he will have no problems in the future. Mos Def, plays the neighbor of Hank, and puts Hank in his place. In the end the two have become friends, or so it seems. Mos Def is no stranger to movies and is definitely making his way around Hollywood.

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Hosted by Killa B Da Bandit



## Taxes, from page 6

Publication 520.

Once you have determined your overall income from the year, you are allowed to take deductions (subtraction amounts from your income) to calculate an Adjusted Gross Income, the amount used in calculating your tax. In addition to the standard deduction, which is \$700 up to \$4,400 for dependents based on your taxable income) you may be able to take deductions from interest paid on student loans. To see if you are eligible to take a Student Loan Deduction, you must fill out the Student Loan Worksheet. It is a short worksheet that guides you through simple calculations that will determine your deduction amount. The worksheet can be found in the "2001 1040 Instructions" booklet, or on-line at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov). Up to \$2,000 of interest paid on qualified student loans may be deducted. But, if you are a dependent, you are not eligible to claim the Student Loan Interest deduction. The requirements for this deduction are explained in detail, under Tax Topic 456 at [www.irs.gov/taxtopics](http://www.irs.gov/taxtopics).

The final step in completing your tax return is determining your refund or amount you owe. Basically, that is the tax already paid (from the W-2 forms) on Adjusted Gross Income subtracted from the tax you should have paid. If you paid more than you should have, you will receive a refund.

When you sit down to do your taxes – whether by paper form or electronically – have the following items: a copy of all W-2 forms and any other tax forms sent to you by employers or the government; all information pertaining to scholarships received during 2001, and, if you are not a dependent, all information pertaining to interest paid on student loans for 2001. Have with you a calculator at hand and the instructions booklet (a paper copy or electronic copy) that accompanies the form you are filling out. All forms and Instructions can be downloaded from [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov). If you begin prepared, it should take you approximately 30 minutes to complete your 2001 Federal Tax Return.

**What if you need Help?**  
Should you need tax help, you can

speaking with an IRS employee (1-800-829-1040), listen to pre-recorded Tax Topics (1-800-829-4477) or go on-line. The IRS website has available all of the necessary information and/or forms you need to properly fill out your return or answer most questions you may have about any tax issue. The site includes frequently asked questions, forms and publications for download as well as some fill-in forms that you can complete on the computer and print.

Understandably, filing taxes can be an intimidating and frustrating process the first couple of times. But it is something most of us will do each year for the rest of our lives, so you might as well become comfortable doing them yourself. All Massachusetts State tax forms and Instructions and the Instructions for some federal forms (i.e. Forms 1040, 1040a, or 1040ez) can be found in most libraries, including NU's, or on line.

**APRIL 15, 2002** is the last day to submit your 2001 Tax Return. Avoid paying late fees, DO NOT procrastinate. And remember, the sooner you file, the sooner you'll get back your refund.

## The Truth Table

Myth	Facts By the Stats	Beliefs
Our cooperative system and educational institution is top notch.	You are not guaranteed a co-op nor an education	I could have stayed home, learned the same things, and spent a lot less money.
We are viewed as equal under the American eye, especially here at Northeastern University.	We have protests they call it riots; they have riots they call it a wild party/celebration.	I have a dream is still a dream.
Freshman females are ignorant to the game and are more willing to give it up.	Freshman females are targeted because they are ignorant to the game and willing to give it up.	I just messed it up for a lot of dudes trying to get it from someone in '06.
Nice guys finish last.	True.	There are going to be a lot more Pimps and Playas around.
He is great!	No matter how ill he is, he can only be guaranteed a second place victory, every time.	If he is in it next year, he will win so that the facts don't hold up as truth.

ONYX

# Speak Out

I was raised to believe that excellence is the best deterrent to racism or sexism. And that's how I operate my life.

~Oprah Winfrey, 1989

## Attention, Dr. C.A. Light!

Doctor, doctor, doctor, before I get open, let me ask you something. How are you a doctor and find time to observe all the things you mentioned that happen on this campus? Cut that mess out, you ain't no damn doctor and if you are one, can you produce the documents that support your claim, Tommy? If you can, I will make sure to recycle it after my spicy wings digest thoroughly, because your proof would only be good for wiping Shit, not changing it.

Here you are preaching that let's hold hands, lean on me, we are the world, we are the children, bull\$hit, as if what you say now, is different from what has been said for so many years. Come on now, did you really think you were going to make a difference by writing an article on the obvious? And even better, in a paper that nobody reads? A paper that is supposed to be the voice of the "majority of the minorities" who quite simply don't give a damn! Ha, I laugh at you. I laugh at you because of your ignorance, and failure to realize that we are indifferent, ignorant people on this campus, who have adapted to an indifferent, ignorant system, controlled by the dictators of indifference and ignorance themselves – the powers that be. So yes we are "accomplices to historic criminals". It ain't hard to tell.

By understanding that fact, the people that you view on this campus are just going about their business not giving a damn about the next man, because the next man don't give a damn about them, and I for one am all for self. NBSA pamphlets display the figure of a man

extending his hand in order to lift up another to that ascended level. The message with that says, "He ain't heavy, He's my brother". The hell with that. I struggled to get where I am, and made it, even tho "my brothers and sisters" acted like we were crabs in a barrel. When it was my time to shine, my time to live, and I had the opportunity to get away, they tried to dead me on that possibility. But I made it here, wherever that is. Now I'm all for self. That is how we have to be, in order to get the biggest piece possible of our little slice of the American pie, American dream, American bull\$hit(same difference). I'm trying to live like the Jefferson's one day, feel me?

I used to be all optimistic and altruistic such as yourself, but experience taught me, that is the way of the fool. Now the way of the wise is to be similar to how I am now and adhere to these main points. Life is survival in pursuit in of some kind of happiness. Life throughout the world, especially here in America is all business and competition so handle every situation accordingly. There is no guarantee that what is true today will be true tomorrow.

In situations of we were coo' yesterday and upon seeing me today I act like I don't know you, don't even think about it, keep it moving. You probably only provided a service to me that was only good for yesterday (it's business). If I got my head in the sky and it seems to you like I'm mad cocky or conceited, and you feel that I think I am better than you, it is probably because it is true. But the feeling that you get from that, blame it on yourself because your assumptions got you thinking for me, about you (it's competition). I at times have

hate in my blood, and I admit to hating on the next man for the status someone else gave him, but why not, I'm just doing my part to balance out all the love as it can not exist without what I do and what is done to me (it's business and competition). I'm guilty "cloaking opportunities from others in need of those blessings", but as you might know right now it's just business and competition.

I hope you haven't taken offense to my response, but if you did... so what... you shouldn't have written something for me to respond to. I can only suggest you keep it moving, because I most definitely will. To do you one last favor and answer your question "Where's Da Love?" I can tell you that it ain't here, wherever here is, deal with it.

~ Shae D. Forcast

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## H. Rap Brown *On Trail for Murder*

by Angelo Lynn

H. Rap Brown, former Black Panther leader, is on trial in Atlanta for the murder of an undercover officer on March 16, 2000. Imam Jamil Abulah Al-Amin, 58, is accused of murdering Fulton County Deputy Ricky Kinchen and aggravated assault in the wounding of Deputy Aldranon English. Al-Amin's defense is arguing that the FBI has been trying to frame Al-Amin as part of a government conspiracy because of his Muslim faith and his Black militant past, as H. Rap Brown, in the 1960's. If convicted Al-Amin could face the death penalty.

Al-Amin became Minister of Information for the Black Panther Party in 1968. Prior to that he was an activist in the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), and was elected Chairman of SNCC in 1967. As the history of our freedom movement gets revised and belittled over the years, a seldom articulated fact of H. Rap Brown's rise to prominence in the movement was the changing of the name of the most famous and influential student organization in the country at that time. Upon his election to the chairmanship of SNCC, with Stokely Carmichael elected as Vice Chair, the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee changed its name to the Student National Coordinating Committee. The acronym remained unchanged (SNCC), while the organization manifestly changed its philosophies of Civil Rights to become more in accordance with the emerging Black Power ideologies.

While attending Southern University (1960-64), Brown would join the Black Liberation Struggle. As the

Black Panther Party rose to become the dominant organization in the Civil Rights/Black Liberation Movement it reached out to leaders from other organizations, such as Brown, and placed them in their national leadership body.

Brown was known for his inspiring speeches, he had developed a speaking style from the rich tradition of African American oratory, specifically from the strain of extemporaneity often associated with



Malcolm X. While Malcolm was known for his ability to both start and stop a neighborhood rebellion (reported as riots by the media) with his speeches, Brown was stereotyped as someone who always advocated

violence.

However, at the 1968 Black Power Convention held in Newark, New Jersey a totally different side to Brown's legacy as a public speaker was evidenced. A crowd of 5,000 convention participants had been whipped up into frenzy by Charlie Kenyatta, leader of the Mau Mau — who was later exposed to be a police agent - who was advocating that the crowd storm the local police station to "liberate the Brothers" who were being held in lock-up. H. Rap Brown mounted the platform and harangued the audience, admonishing that they were about to be massacred by hundreds of national guardsman and police who were waiting with 30 paddy wagons around the corner. Brown, in the tradition of Brother Malcolm, prevented a riot, rather than incite one.

H. Rap Brown would go on to help the Panthers in their struggle for Human Rights, by establishing

Breakfast Programs for Black children, and free Health Clinics. These programs were viewed as a threat to National Security, and, according to official records of the U.S. Congress, the FBI began its now infamous Counter-intelligence Program (COINTELPRO) to bring down Black militants. Brown was specifically targeted by this government terrorist program, which eventually murdered and falsely imprisoned other Black militants such as Huey P. Newton, George Jackson, and Assata Shakur. In 1970 Brown was placed on the FBI's ten most wanted list before finally being captured and imprisoned.

H. Rap Brown changed his name to Al-Amin when he converted to the Dar-ul Islam movement while serving a five-year sentence for armed robbery and shoot-out with New York police. To the Muslim world he is known as a spiritual leader, where he leads one of the nations largest Black Muslim groups, the National Islamic Community.

Al-Amin was and is a man devoted to the liberation of humankind. His transformation to the Muslim faith only strengthened his commitment and effectiveness as a person devoted to the welfare of his people. In his neighborhood in Atlanta, Georgia, his Muslim community is known for decreasing the presence of crime, drugs and violence. His efforts, in this regard, far outstripped that of the local police who, more often than not, were found to be at the bottom of the local crime, rather than a deterrent to it.

To People of Color, and all people devoted to righteousness, Imam Jamil Abdullah Al-Amin will always be known as one who has tirelessly fought for our freedom, and a better world.

*The struggle continues.*

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